



NINJA RED RIDING HOOD

From the creators of *The Three Ninja Pigs*

Corey Rosen Schwartz • illustrated by **Dan Santat**



**This wolf
just can't
catch a
break!**

Ever since the three little pigs started teaching everyone Ninja skills, huffing and puffing just hasn't been enough to scare up a good meal.

Wolf's craving for meat sends him to classes at the dojo, and soon he's ready to try out his new moves. A little girl and her tiny granny should be easy targets — right?



Not if Little Red
has anything to
say about it!

KIYA!

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WITHDRAWN



To my Ninja niece and nephew,
Jessica and Max
— C.R.S.

For Jodi and Alec
— D.S.

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Summary: In this twist on "Little Red Riding Hood," a certain wolf trains to be a ninja in order to catch his prey, but he is not the only one mastering a martial art.

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Design by Ryan Thomann. Text set in Markin.

The art was done with Sumi brush work on rice paper and completed in Adobe Photoshop.



NINJA RED RIDING HOOD

Corey Rosen Schwartz

illustrated by **Dan Santat**

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Once upon a Ninja-filled time,

a wolf couldn't catch any prey.

He kept getting licked

by the dinner he picked

and was growing more ticked by the day.





His belly was achin' for bacon.

"I'm wasting away," he complained.


To huff and to puff

was no longer enough,



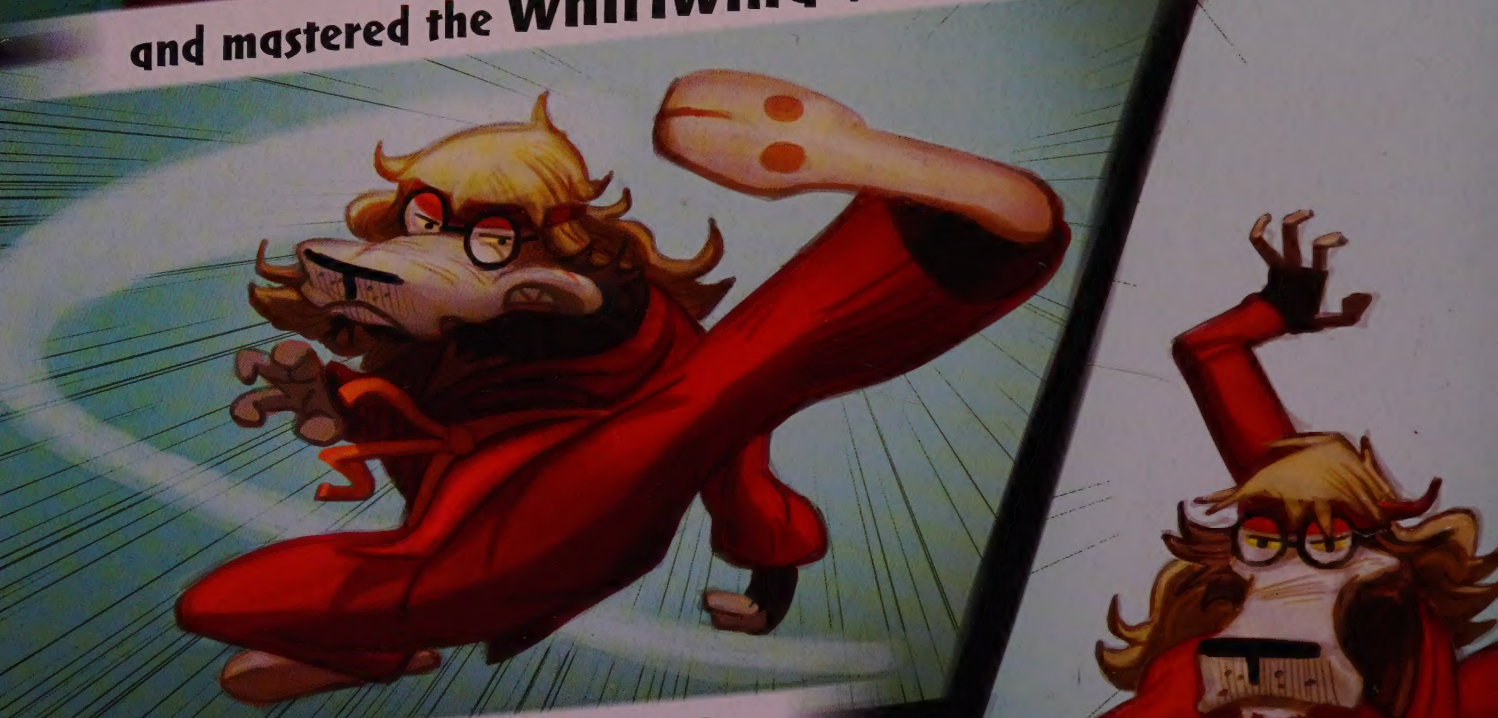


so he snuck into school to be trained.



He practiced his **katas** for hours

and mastered the **whirlwind** and **wheel**.



He jackknifed and flipped



and at last felt equipped

to once again catch a good meal.



**Drooling with anticipation,
he set off in search of some meat.
While deep in the wood,
he met Riding Hood.**

**I'm bringing my
grandma a treat.**





**The wolf licked his chops when he saw her
and hastily thought up a plan.**

**There are blossoms that way!
You can pick a bouquet
to give to your little old gran.**

Then the wolf took a shortcut to Grandma's,
where he thought that he'd find her in bed.



**But Granny was gone,
so he put her robe on
and eagerly waited for Red.**



Soon after, he heard someone knocking.
He called out, **"My dear, come on in.**
Oh, don't you look good
in your lovely red hood,
but a shame that you've gotten so thin."



**Little Red took a look at her granny
and said, "What on earth
did you do?**

**I could swear that your eyes
have completely changed size.**

**Hey, Gran, are you sure
that it's you?"**



**Of course it is me, my sweet darling.
The better to see you, my dear.**

And your **ears** are so long!
Something really seems wrong.

Oh, my girl, all the better to hear!





"And those **biceps**! My gosh, they look massive.

And your triceps and delts are immense."

"The better for hugging,"

her grandma said, shrugging.

"Dear Red, that's just plain common sense."

"And those **teeth**, they look so much sharper."

"Why, yes,

**all the better
to chew."**



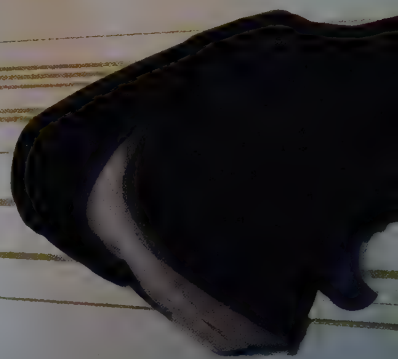


He jumped out of bed
to gobble up Red,
but ...





**she'd gone
to Ninja school,
too!**



**She grappled and sideswiped and twisted,
and escaped from his clutches unscratched.**



She attempted a lock,

but he managed to block.



They appeared to be evenly matched!



**Just then, they both heard someone chopping.
A woodsman? Red thought. But instead —**



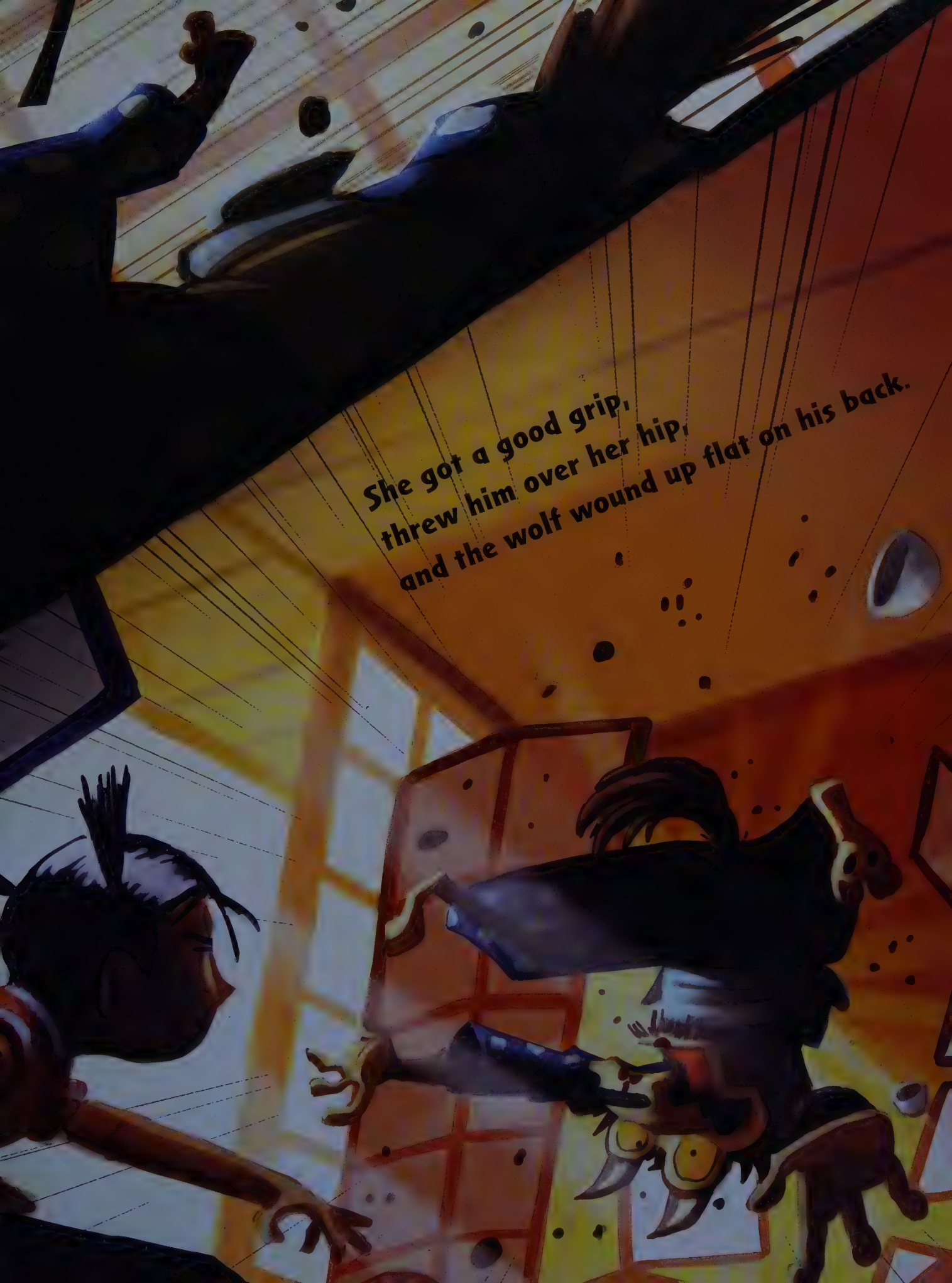
it was Gran in her gi.
She'd just come from tai chi.

**Don't you dare
harm a hair on her head!**



The wolf took a swing at that instant,
but Red deftly dodged the attack.



A dynamic illustration of a girl with dark hair and a red collar throwing a large, dark-furred wolf over her hip. The wolf is shown in mid-air, with its body arched and its legs tucked. The background is a warm, orange-brown color with a grid pattern, suggesting a window or a wall. There are several small, dark, circular objects floating in the air around the wolf. The overall style is cartoonish and energetic.

She got a good grip,
threw him over her hip,
and the wolf wound up flat on his back.

"I'll skedaddle," the wolf said in anguish
as he struggled back up on his feet.

"Just a second, you beast.

You will not be released

till you promise to give up **Red meat!**"



Though his tummy still rumbled with hunger,
the wolf faced his rival and vowed:

"Ninja Red, you have won.

My meat days are done."

"Oh, Red-chan," said Gran. "I'm so proud!"



**Then Red and the wolf bowed politely,
and Gran gave him half her peach pie.
The wolf was a mess.
He'd had way too much stress.
"I guess I'll give yoga a try."**





**He enrolled at the Downward Dog Center,
where his tension began to decrease.
He studied with yogis,
said no to meat hoagies,
and felt, at last, truly at peace.**









Corey Rosen Schwartz has no true Ninja training, but she can sure kick butt in Scrabble. She lives in Warren, New Jersey. coreyrosenschwartz.com

Dan Santat is the creator of the Disney Channel's animated hit *The Replacements* and also holds a black belt in Shotokan. He lives with his family in Los Angeles. dantat.com



These three pigs pack a punch!

"This standout version has so much motion, action, and laughs, kids will feel like they're hearing it for the first time." — *Booklist*

"The idea of three gi-clad pigs fighting the big bad wolf is a winner." — *Publishers Weekly*

"A standout among fractured fairy tales, masterfully combining rollicking limerick verse with a solid story." — *Kirkus Reviews*

Little Red and her grandma
may seem like easy targets,



but this wolf is in for a surprise.

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